

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This new application is being filed before the payment of the Issue Fee in US Patent Application Ser. No. 09/526,627 (Issue Batch K11).

Claims 7-17 have been canceled without prejudice.

Support for independent claims 18 and 33 can be found throughout the specification at, for example, page 3, lines 26-28 and page 4, line 33 – page 5, line 5.

Support for claims 19-27 and 34-42 can be found throughout the specification at, for example, page 3, lines 14-16, page 4, lines 1-21, Example 1 and Example 2.

Support for claims 28, 29, 43 and 44 can be found throughout the specification at, for example, page 2, lines 27-29 and page 4, lines 21-23.

Support for claims 30-32 and 45-47 can be found throughout the specification at, for example, page 5, lines 3-5, page 3, lines 26-28, page 4, lines 16-18, page 4, lines 21-23, page 4, lines 6-13, and page 2, lines 27-29.

Support for claims 48-56 can be found throughout the specification at, for example, page 1, lines 17-29, page 3, lines 29-31, page 4, lines 1 – 23 and Example 2.

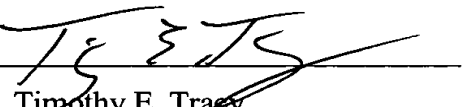
Support for claims 59 and 60 can be found throughout the specification at, for example, page 3, lines 6-12, page 3, lines 26-27, page 3, lines 29-34, and page 4, lines 1-23.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is/are captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Title:

The title entered in Paper No. 14 of US Patent Application Ser. No. 09/526,627 has been canceled without prejudice and replaced.

~~PREBLEND OF MICROCRYSTALLINE CELLULOSE AND LACTASE FOR MAKING TABLETS~~

STABLE LACTASE TABLETS AND METHODS OF PRODUCTION

In the Abstract:

The abstract entered in Paper No. 14 of US Patent Application Ser. No. 09/526,627 has been canceled without prejudice and replaced.

~~A preblend for making lactase tablets is prepared containing about 1-99% (preferably about 20-60%) by weight lactase and about 1-99% (preferably about 40-80%) by weight microcrystalline cellulose. Lactase used in the preblend may be in combination with up to about 4 parts (preferably about 0.5-2 parts) by weight cutting agent such as sugars, starches, cellulose, and inorganic salts for each part by weight lactase. About 0.5-4% by weight lubricant such as magnesium stearate may be present in the preblend. A preferred preblend contains about 9.6 weight percent lactase and about 90 weight percent microcrystalline cellulose. Another preferred preblend contains about 9.6 weight percent lactase, about 30.0 weight percent microcrystalline cellulose and about 59.4 weight percent mannitol. Each preblend may also contain magnesium stearate. A preferred lactase is from *Aspergillus oryzae* and the microcrystalline cellulose preferably has an average particle size of about 20-200µm.~~

A tablet and a composition having from about 3000 to about 9000 FCC lactase units and from about 25 to about 70 weight percent microcrystalline cellulose is disclosed. Additionally, also disclosed is a process for making a tablet by following steps in order mixing lactase and microcrystalline cellulose to form a preblend; adding to the preblend a member selected from the group consisting of dextrose, mannitol, a lubricant, cornstarch, calcium phosphate, sodium citrate, calcium sulfate, calcium stearate, stearic acid, glyceryl monostearate, glyceryl distearate, sorbitol, gelatin, a gum, and mixtures thereof to form a mixture; and compressing the mixture to form a tablet.

In the Specification:

The following statement was entered at page 1, before the first line:

This application is a division of US Patent Application Ser. No. 09/526,627, filed August 16, 2000, currently pending, which was a division of US Patent Application Ser. application Serial No. 08/496,824, filed June 29, 1995, now US Patent No. 6,057,139.

In the Claims:

Claims 7-17 were canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 8-60 were added.

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